

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3938

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11764

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 29, 1973

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO 'JUNE 29TH,
1973 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0516

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MOPS, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 29, 1973

SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS DECLINED IN BA XUYEN.
CEASEFIRE I-STYLE COMBAT CONTINUES IN DINH TUONG, BUT AT
A REDUCED LEVEL. VINH BINH AUTHORITIES FAILED TO DELIVER
ALLEGED VC ASSASSINS TO ICCS INTERROGATORS.
FORMER DEPUTY LEADERS HAVE ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE 1ST NVA DIVISION.
END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) THE DAILY REPORTED IN-
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CIDENT LEVEL IN THE DELTA REMAINED LOW. MR IV REPORTED

32 INCIDENTS JUNE 27 AND ONLY 23 INCIDENTS JUNE 28.

THERE WERE FOUR GROUND ATTACKS, 17 ATTACKS BY FIRE, SIX HARASSMENTS, THREE TERRORIST ACTS AND TWO ACTS OF SABOTAGE ON JUNE 27. THIS COMPARES WITH TWO GROUND ATTACKS, 16 ATTACKS BY FIRE, ONE HARASSMENT, ONE TERRORIST ACT, TWO INCIDENTS OF SABOTAGE AND ONE INFILTRATION THE FOLLOWING DAY. RVNAF LOST 11 KILLED AND 64 WOUNDED ON JUNE 27 AND 20 KILLED AND 62 WOUNDED THE FOLLOWING DAY. THE VC/NVA LOSSES WERE 48 KILLED AND TWO CAPTURED JUNE 27, AND 38 KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED ON JUNE 28.

(B) THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN BA XUYEN HAS DROPPED DRAMATICALLY THE LAST FEW DAYS. THE INTENSE GVN MILITARY ACTIVITY, IN ANTICIPATION OF A VC HIGHPOINT, WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE EARLY DAYS OF CEASEFIRE II IS OVER. GVN OPERATIONS ARE DOWN TO PRE-CEASEFIRE II LEVELS, AND VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN AVERAGING ONLY FIVE A DAY. JUNE 28 SAW NO INCIDENTS AND NO CONTACTS REPORTED. MEANWHILE, RUMORS ABOUND IN GIA HOA VILLAGE, TAN TRI DISTRICT, THAT THE 4TH COMPANY OF THE VC PHU LOI I BATTALION WAS DECIMATED BY A GVN ARTILLERY BARRAGE JUNE 17 ALONG THE VILLAGE BORDER WITH HOA TU DISTRICT. THE SOC TRANG VICE CONSUL REPORTS THAT USUALLY RELIABLE PROVINCE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE RUMORS, ALTHOUGH ONLY FIVE WEAPONS AND NO BODIES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN THE AREA OF THE ALLEGED CONTACT. THE PHU LOI I BATTALION IS THE VC UNIT WHICH OVERRAN GIA HOA VILLAGE MAY 3, INFLECTING HEAVY CASUALTIES UPON ITS LOCAL FORCE DEFENDERS (CAN THO 0291). THE VILLAGE'S BITTER MEMORY OF MAY 3 NO DOUBT COULD GIVE WING TO RUMORS OF THE DESTRUCTION OF ITS ENEMY.

(C) 7TH ARVN DIVISION COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN KHOA NAM TOLD THE MY THO VICE CONSUL JUNE 22 THAT THE VC DURING CEASEFIRE II ARE AVOIDING CONTACT AND CONCENTRATING ON INFILTRATING SUPPLIES. HE SAID NOTHING OF THE INFILTRATION OF MEN. NAM REPORTED HIS UNITS WERE CONDUCTING DEFENSIVE SECURITY PATROLS AROUND POPULATED AREAS AND TRYING TO INTERDICT THE INFILTRATIONS. (COMMENT: THE GVN DEFENSIVE TACTICS IN DINH TUONG WERE MOST AGGRESSIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 20-24 DINH TUONG SECTOR REPORTED NINE VC "ATTACKS" ON FRIENDLY FORCES BUT THE GVN SUFFERED CASUALTIES IN ONLY TWO OF THESE ATTACKS, WHILE CLAIMING 13 VC DEAD, CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGESTING THAT THE "ATTACKS" WERE GVN-INITIATED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE VC CONTINUE TO VIOLATE THE CEASEFIRE THROUGH INFILTRATIONS AND MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS HARASSMENTS OF GVN OUTPOSTS. CEASEFIRE I COMBAT--VC HARASSMENTS AND GVN PATROLS TO DENY THE VC ACCESS TO THE POPULATION--CONTINUES, ALTHOUGH AT A REDUCED RATE.)

(D) PHONG DINH POPULAR FORCE UNITS TOOK A BEATING JUNE 28 IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS. A SMALL PF UNIT ON PATROL

FROM THE THANH MY HAMLET OUTPOST, TAN BINH VILLAGE, THUAN NHON DISTRICT CLASHED WITH A VC PLATOON AT 1030 HOURS. FIVE PF WERE KILLED, ONE WOUNDED, AND TWO ARE MISSING. FIVE M-16'S, ONE M-79, AND ONE PRC-25 RADIO WERE LOST. IN HOA PHU HAMLET, XUAN HOA VILLAGE, PHONG TUAN DISTRICT, TWO PF PLATOONS WERE ATTACKED BY A VC UNIT OF UNKNOWN SIZE AT 1835 HOURS. ONLY ONE PF WAS WOUNDED BUT ELEVEN ARE MISSING WITH THEIR WEAPONS, SUGGESTING A SIZEABLE DEFECTION OF PF TO THE VC.

2. ICCS: THE KHANG HUNG (SOC TRANG) GVN/JMC CHIEF TOLD THE CANADIAN ICCS DELEGATION HEAD RECENTLY THAT VINH BINH AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT DELIVER, AS EARLIER PROMISED, TWO ALLEGED PARTICIPANTS IN THE MURDER OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S WIFE AND CHILDREN JUNE 20 (CAN THO 0480, 0504). THE GVN HAD SAID IT WOULD MAKE TWO SUSPECTS, WHO ALLEGEDLY CONFESSED TO THEIR PART IN THE MURDER, AVAILABLE TO THE SOC TRANG ICCS TEAM WHICH HAD INVESTIGATED THE INCIDENT. ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS HAD AGREED TO INTERROGATE THE SUSPECTS. ACCORDING TO THE GVN/JMC CHIEF, THE VINH BINH AUTHORITIES ARE AFRAID THE SUSPECTS WILL RECENT DURING THE INTERROGATION.

3. VC/NVA ACTIVITIES: ARVN OFFICERS AT CHAU DOC SECTOR TOLD THE VICE CONSUL JUNE 22 THAT THE 1ST NVA DIVISION'S COMMANDER BAY SON HAS BEEN REPLACED BY HIS DEPUTY NAMED THI. IN ADDITION, THE DIVISION'S POLITICAL OFFICER, TRAN VAN MAU, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF VC MR III, HAS BEEN SUPERSEDED BY HIS DEPUTY, HAI VIEN. THESE CHANGES PROBABLY RESULTED FROM DRV DISSATISFACTION WITH THE 1ST DIVISION'S PASSIVE ROLE SINCE THE HONG NGU FIGHT IN APRIL (CAN THO 0457).

WISNER

QUNQUOTE:

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WHITEHOUSE

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